

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method, comprising:  
~~a step for~~ storing to a first storage medium key data indicating permission to use the digital information; and

~~a step for~~ storing to the first storage medium a program for controlling a digital information controller to store a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area in a second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the ~~storage-medium~~ owner of the second storage medium when copying key data from the first storage medium to which the key data is written to ~~[[a]]~~ the second storage medium using the digital information controller.

2. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method, comprising:  
~~a step for~~ storing to a first storage medium key data indicating permission to use the digital information; and

~~a step for~~ storing to the first storage medium a program ~~having~~ having:

a function for storing a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of ~~[[the]]~~ a second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the ~~storage medium~~ owner of the second storage medium, when copying key data from the first storage medium to ~~[[a]]~~ the second storage medium using the digital information controller, and

a function for controlling the digital information controller to send fees stored ~~to-m~~ in the marketer area to ~~[[the]]~~ a marketer when communicating using the ~~first~~ second storage medium.

3. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 1, wherein:

said program has a function for controlling the digital information controller to store a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of one storage medium that cannot be accessed by the ~~storage-medium~~ owner of one storage medium when copying key data from storage medium N-1 (where N is an integer of 3 or more) to storage medium N.

4. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 2, wherein:

said program has a function for controlling the digital information controller to store a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of one medium that cannot be accessed by the ~~storage-medium~~ owner of the one storage medium when copying key data from storage medium N-1 (where N is an integer of 3 or more) to storage medium N.

5. (Original) A digital information sales method according to claim 3, wherein:  
said program has a function for controlling so as to store said usage fee to said marketer area of storage medium N.

6. (Original) A digital information sales method according to claim 4, wherein:  
said program has a function for controlling so as to store said usage fee to said marketer area of storage medium N.

7. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 3, wherein:

said program has a function for controlling so as to compare a user-marketer transaction count from storage medium N and from storage medium N-1, and storing said usage fee to the marketer area of one of the storage ~~medium~~ mediums having the higher transaction count.

8. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 4, wherein:

said program has a function for controlling so as to compare a user-marketer transaction count from storage medium N and from storage medium N-1, and storing said usage fee to the marketer area of one of the storage ~~medium~~ mediums having the higher transaction count.

9. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 1, wherein:

said program has a function for controlling an ATM terminal to send money information stored in the marketer area ~~of the storage medium~~ to the digital information sales apparatus when a storage medium having a usage/purchase amount stored in ~~the~~ its marketer area is inserted to the ATM machine.

10. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 2, wherein:

said program has a function for controlling an ATM terminal to send money information stored in the marketer area ~~of the storage medium~~ to the digital information sales apparatus

when a storage medium having a usage/purchase amount stored in ~~the~~ its marketer area is inserted to the ATM machine.

11. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method comprising:

~~a step for~~ storing to a first storage medium key data indicating permission to use the digital information; and

~~a step for~~ storing to the first storage medium a program ~~having~~ having:

a function for controlling the digital information controller so that key data is copied in an unusable state when copying key data from the first storage medium to which the key data is written to a second storage medium using the digital information controller, and

a function for storing a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of the second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the owner of the second storage medium.

12. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method, comprising:

~~a step for~~ storing to a first storage medium key data indicating permission to use the digital information;

~~a step~~ storing to the first storage medium a program ~~having~~ having:

a function for controlling the digital information controller so that key data is copied in an unusable state when copying key data from the first storage medium to which the key data is written to a second storage medium using the digital information controller,

a function for storing a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of the second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the owner of the second storage medium, and

a function for controlling the digital information controller to access ~~the~~ a digital information marketer through a communications means when playing back the copied digital information to convert the key data stored to the second storage medium to a usable state; and

~~a step for~~ sending information for setting key data stored to the second storage medium to a usable state when access is made using the second storage medium containing unusable-state key data and the digital information usage fee is paid.

13. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales apparatus, comprising:

memory for storing digital information;

key data memory for storing key data indicating permission to use the digital information;

and

program memory for storing a program ~~having~~ having:

a function for controlling ~~[[the]]~~ a digital information controller so that key data is copied in an unusable state when copying key data to a second storage medium using the digital information controller from ~~the~~ a first storage medium to which the key data is written as a result of purchasing the digital information and key data, and

a function for storing a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of the second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the owner of the second storage medium;

wherein said key data and said program are stored to ~~the~~ a buyer's storage medium when the digital information is sold.

14. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales apparatus, comprising:  
memory for storing digital information;  
key data memory for storing key data indicating permission to use the digital information;  
and  
program memory for storing a program ~~having~~ having:

a function for controlling ~~the~~ a digital information controller so that key data is copied in an unusable state when copying key data to a second storage medium using the digital information controller from ~~the~~ a first storage medium to which the key data is written as a result of purchasing the digital information and key data,

a function for storing a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of the second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the owner of the second storage medium, and

a function for controlling the digital information controller to access the digital information marketer through a communications means when playing back the copied digital information to convert the key data stored to the second storage medium to a usable state;

wherein the key data and said program are stored to ~~the buyer~~ a buyer's storage medium when the digital information is sold, and information for setting key data stored to the second

storage medium to a usable state is sent when access is made using the second storage medium containing unusable-state key data and the digital information usage fee is paid.

15. (Currently Amended) A medium for storing a program readable by a control device having a function for controlling a digital information controller, which has a means for controlling a first medium for storing key data indicating permission to use digital information, and a means for copying to a second medium the key data stored to the first medium, wherein said program has:

a function for achieving in the control device a function for setting the key data to an unusable state and storing the unusable-state key data to the second medium when copying key data stored to ~~to~~ in the first medium to the second medium, and

a function for storing a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of the second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the owner of the second storage medium.

16. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a program readable by a control device having a function for controlling a digital information controller, which has a means for controlling a first medium for storing key data indicating permission to use digital information, a means for copying to a second medium the key data stored to the first medium, a means for controlling the second medium storing the copied key data, and a communications means for communicating with an external device, wherein said program has a function for achieving in the control device:

a function for setting the key data to an unusable state and storing the unusable-state key data to the second medium when copying key data stored to the first medium to the second medium;

a function for storing a fee for using the digital information to a marketer area of the second storage medium that cannot be accessed by the owner of the second storage medium; and

a function for setting to a usable state the unusable-state key data stored to the second medium when the copied digital information is played back by communicating with ~~the~~ a digital information sales apparatus using the second medium by way of the communications means.

17. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 1, wherein:

the first storage medium and the second storage medium ~~[[are]]~~ each comprise an IC card containing electronic money information and key data unique to the IC card, and

the key data indicating permission to use the digital information is encrypted using the ~~unique IC card~~ key data unique to the IC card, when the key data indicating permission to use the digital information is copied to the first storage medium or second storage medium.

18. (Currently Amended) A digital information sales method according to claim 2, wherein:

the first storage medium and the second storage medium ~~[[are]]~~ each comprises an IC card containing electronic money information and key data unique to the IC card, and

the key data indicating permission to use the digital information is encrypted using the unique IC card key data unique to the IC card, when the key data indicating permission to use the digital information is copied to the first storage medium or second storage medium.